

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**INTERIM CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION**

**393 - FILTER STRIP**

**I. SCOPE**

The work shall consist of planting a vegetated filter strip to the lines and grades as shown on the drawings, including furnishing of seed, fertilizer, and mulch required for planting vegetation.

**II. MATERIALS**

**Seed:**

All seed shall be delivered to the site, tagged and labeled in accordance with the Seeding Specification.

**Fertilizer:**

Fertilizer shall be in accordance with the requirements on the Seeding Specification.

All bagged fertilizer shall be delivered in unbroken or unopened containers, labeled in accordance with applicable state regulations and bearing the warranty of the producer for the grade furnished.

**Inoculants:**

The inoculant for treating legume seeds shall be a pure culture of nitrogen-fixing bacteria prepared specifically for the plant species and shall not be used later than the date indicated on the container. A mixing medium, as recommended by the manufacturer, shall be used to bond the inoculant to the seed. For nonpellet inoculated seed, two times the amount of the inoculant recommended by the manufacturer shall be used and seed shall be sown within 24 hours of treatment.

For pellet inoculated seed, the inoculation rate shall be at least 30 pounds per 1,000 pounds of raw seed and the seed shall be labeled to show the Lot Number, Expiration Date of the Rhizobia, and Percent Coat of the finished product.

Pellet inoculated seed shall be sown within 30 days of inoculation, shall be kept cool until

sown, and shall achieve at least 80 percent nodulation.

**Mulch:**

Straw mulch shall be new straw derived from rice, wheat, oats, or barley. Hydro mulching can also be used to prevent surface erosion.

**III. SITE PREPARATION:**

The area to be used as a filter strip shall be cleared by removing obstructions, trees (if necessary), stumps, roots, brush, boulders, debris, and other objectionable material. Removal shall be done in such a manner as to avoid damage to other trees and property.

Any topsoil excavated to shape the filter strip shall be stockpiled until needed for spreading over areas that will be vegetated. Excess topsoil shall be placed where it does not interfere with the required flow characteristics of the filter strip.

The filter strip shall be shaped to the lines and grades as shown on the construction drawings. All spoil material shall be placed in areas as staked in the field and shaped to accommodate the vegetation operation. The final grading operation shall be made to accommodate seedbed preparation.

**IV. SEEDING MIXTURE**

The seeding mixture should include legumes and stiff-stemmed perennial grasses that are rhizomatous or sod-forming. Use **Critical Area Planting (Code 342)** for appropriate seeding rates and mixtures.

The seeding rate(s) shall be the weight exclusive of any coating material. Any legume seed used shall be inoculated.

Planting shall be performed after final grading is completed and any protective armor work has been finished unless otherwise specified on the attached **Construction Requirements Worksheet.**

## V. SEEDBED PREPARATION

The area to be planted shall be weed free and have a firm seedbed which has previously been roughened by scarifying, disking, harrowing, chiseling, or otherwise worked to a depth of 2 to 4 inches. No implement shall be used that will create an excessive amount of downward movement of clods on sloping areas. The seedbed may be prepared at the time of completion of earthwork.

Rocks larger than 6 inches in diameter, trash, weeds, and other debris that will interfere with seeding or maintenance shall be removed. Seedbed preparation shall be suspended when soil moisture conditions are not suitable for the preparation of a satisfactory seedbed.

## VI. SEEDING, FERTILIZING, MULCHING AND ANCHORING MULCH

### Seeding:

Seed shall be drilled or broadcast. The average depth of seeding shall not exceed 3/4 to 1 inch, depending on the seed size and soil texture.

### Fertilizing:

Fertilizer shall be distributed uniformly over the seedbed at the rate based on a soil test, unless a different amount is specified on the **Practice Requirements Sheet**. Use **Critical Area Planting (Code 342)** for guidance in lieu of a soil test. Fertilizer shall be applied in any way that will result in uniform distribution. The fertilizer shall be incorporated into the soil. Fertilizing it shall not be accomplished more than 15 days prior to seeding.

Caution: Do not fertilize new seedings until the second or third year after establishment. This will reduce weed competition.

### Mulching:

A mulch covering shall be distributed uniformly over the seeded area within 48 hours following seeding. Straw mulch shall be applied at a rate of 2 tons per acre. The mulch shall be applied by hand, blower, or other suitable equipment. If straw is applied by blower, it shall not be chopped in lengths less than 6 inches.

If the filter strip is going to be hydromulched, it shall be applied at a minimum of 2 tons per acre. If the seed is applied with the hydromulch, double the seeding rate. Whenever possible, the seed should be applied first, separate from the mulch.

### Anchoring the Mulch:

The mulch shall be anchored in place. The anchoring process may include using hand tools, mulching, rollers, disks, or similar types of suitable equipment and shall be performed in a satisfactory manner.

## VII. IRRIGATION

When specified, irrigation water shall be applied at the times and rates as listed on the **Practice Requirements Worksheet**.

## VIII. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Other details for the establishment and maintenance of the plants, including, but not limited to, the need for livestock and traffic control shall be applied as listed on the **Construction Requirements Worksheet**.

## IX. SPECIAL MEASURES

Measures and construction methods shall be incorporated as needed and practical that enhance fish and wildlife values. Special attention shall be given to protecting visual resources and maintaining key shade, food, and den trees.

## X. CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS

Construction operations shall be done in such a manner that erosion, air and water pollution are minimized and held within legal limits. All work and operations will be conducted in accordance with proper safety codes for the type of construction being performed with due regards to the safety of all persons and property.

The completed job shall be workmanlike and present a good appearance.